



## Public Information Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
NEWS FROM: Investigation Division

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### **DPS Forensic Investigators Request Public Assistance in Identifying Skeletal Remains of Murder Victim, "Valerie Doe"**

*Leads exhausted after multiple missing persons cases produce no matches on the identity of  
a white female found in the Black Rock Desert*

Carson City, NV~Investigators from the Department of Public Safety are asking for help from citizens in identifying a white female whose skeletal remains were discovered in a shallow grave by three travelers in the Black Rock Desert on May 25, 1991. After authorities excavated the site, they found her remains along with a bracelet/anklet engraved with the name "Valerie" and a second yellow metal bracelet in the shape of a sea serpent with abalone shell inlay.

Recently, Barbara Martin, a forensic artist with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office in Michigan, completed a sketch of what the victim may have looked like. The sketch was based on one skeletal remains. Investigators are hoping for assistance from the public in identifying the victim based on this sketch.

A medical examination of the remains on June 18, 1991 by Dr. Ellen Clark of the Washoe County Coroner / Medical Examiner's Office determined the victim died of a gunshot wound or multiple gunshot wounds to the head. Anthropologists from California State University of Fullerton who analyzed the remains have no conclusive decision on her age. One estimates her age to have been between 25 and 35 years old and the second anthropologist estimates she was over 40 and possibly in her 50s at the time of her death.

"Valerie" was dressed in "KIKKU" brand denim jeans which are manufactured in England and a "Stage" brand black blouse which was manufactured in Turkey. The bracelets found with her remains are costume jewelry, likely mass produced and sold for no more than \$20.00-\$30.00.

Investigators from the Department of Public Safety have exhausted all available resources and leads, which include the following examples: Nationwide teletypes requesting missing persons cases with the first name "Valerie," DNA testing on possible "Valerie" matches from the Clackamas County (OR) Sheriff's Office and over 10 missing persons reports with a possibility of a match from Lyon and Pershing County Sheriffs Offices. In 2003, the case was submitted to the FBI's VICAP (Violent Criminal Apprehension Program) unit to cross reference over 75 similar cases. No leads were found. Finally, in August of 2004, DPS investigators provided information on the case to a website devoted to assisting law enforcement on cold cases called [www.doenetwork.org](http://www.doenetwork.org). To date, no leads have been generated.

**If anyone has any information on the identity of "Valerie Doe," please contact DPS Detective Sergeant, Martin Roberto at 775-684-7430. For a JPEG of an artist's rendition of "Valerie," go to [www.dps.nv.gov](http://www.dps.nv.gov) and look for the link on the home page.**

The DPS Investigations Division assists local law enforcement with criminal investigations. ###